

Appl. No.: 10/611,522
Amdt. Dated February 28, 2005
Response to Office Action of October 19, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for enhancing operation of wireless network environment, comprising

a plurality of directional antennas oriented about an axis, wherein the plurality of directional antennas have substantially non-overlapping patterns relative to each other, wherein the peak gains of the plurality of directional antennas are oriented about the axis and offset relative to each other at an angle substantially equal to $360/N$, where N is the number of directional antennas in the plurality of directional antennas; wherein the plurality of directional antennas are each operative to transduce a radio frequency signal and provide an output signal corresponding to the radio frequency signal;

a switch operatively connected to the plurality of antennas and operative to switch between the antennas in response to control signals;

a detector operative to detect at least one signal attribute of the output signals ~~transduced~~ provided by the directional antennas; and

an antenna selection module operative, during receipt of the preamble of a wireless frame, to provide control signals to the switch designating a selected antenna directional antennas in the plurality of directional antennas,

evaluate the respective output signals provided by the selected antennas, and
~~evaluate signal attributes provided by the detector,~~

select ~~an~~ a directional antenna from the plurality of directional antennas for receiving the radio frequency signal associated with the wireless frame.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a radio module operatively connected to the switch for receiving output signals from one of the plurality of directional antennas selected by the antenna selection module.

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3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the radio module is operative to demodulate the received output signals into digital data streams.
4. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a data link control unit operative to process the digital data streams and identify frames from the digital data streams.
5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the antenna selection module is further operative to identify the selected directional antenna to the data link control unit, and wherein the identified frames include a source address, and wherein the data link control unit is operative to store the identified directional antenna in association with the source address in the frames in a data structure.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the data link control unit is operative to
compose a frame for transmission to a destination,
retrieve the antenna identifier associated with the destination address in the data structure,
transmit control signals to the switch designating the retrieved antenna for use in
transmitting the composed frame.
7. (original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the data link control unit is operative to transmit a frame acknowledging the received frame.
8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the acknowledging frame is transmitted using the directional antenna selected to receive the frame.
9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one directional antenna is a patch antenna.
10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one directional antenna is a yagi antenna.

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11. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one directional antenna is a parabolic antenna.
12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plurality of directional antennas are configured to maximize the coverage area provided by the plurality of directional antennas.
13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plurality of directional antennas are configured to provide radio frequency coverage in all directions.
14. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the switch, in a listen mode, is operative to switch between the directional antennas before a wireless frame is detected.
15. (currently amended) In a wireless network system comprising a plurality of directional antennas oriented about an axis, wherein the plurality of directional antennas have substantially non-overlapping patterns relative to each other, and wherein the peak gains of the antennas are oriented about the axis and offset relative to each other at an angle substantially equal to $360/N$, where N is the number of directional antennas in the plurality of directional antennas, a method comprising
 - detecting a signal transduced by one of the directional antennas, wherein the signal transmits a wireless frame, the wireless frame including a preamble;
 - during receipt of the preamble of the frame, selecting one from the plurality of the directional antennas based on at least one attribute of the respective signals transduced by the antennas;
 - switching to the selected directional antenna for receipt of the remainder of the frame.
16. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising
 - demodulating the signal to provide a digital data stream,
 - recovering a data packet from the digital data stream.

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17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising transmitting an acknowledgement frame using the selected directional antenna.
18. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the signal is a frequency-division multiplexed signal.
19. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the signal is an orthogonal frequency-division multiplexed signal.
20. (currently amended) An apparatus for enhancing operation of wireless network environment, comprising
- a plurality of directional antennas oriented about an axis, wherein the plurality of directional antennas have substantially non-overlapping patterns relative to each other, and wherein the peak gains of the plurality of antennas are oriented about the axis and offset relative to each other at an angle substantially equal to $360/N$, where N is the number of directional antennas in the plurality of directional antennas;
 - a switch operatively connected to the plurality of antennas and operative to switch between the antennas in response to control signals;
 - a detector operative to detect at least one signal attribute of the signals transduced the antennas; and
 - an antenna selection module operative, during receipt of the preamble of a wireless frame, to
 - provide control signals to the switch designating a selected antenna,
 - evaluate signal attributes provided by the detector,
 - select an antenna from the plurality of antennas for receiving the signal associated with the wireless frame; and
 - an orthogonal frequency division multiplexed (OFDM) module operative to
 - receive the signal from the switch,
 - and recover a digital data stream from the signal